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Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
SECDEF
CNO
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMFAIRMED
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 296333

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJECT:DISESTABLISHMENT OF NAF NAPLES

REF: CINCUSNAVEUR 131251Z SEP 75

1. IN ORDER TO COMPLETE NECESSARY PRELIMINARY ACTIONS FOR DISESTABLISHMENT OF NAVAL AIR FACILITY NAPLES AND RELOCATION OF VR-24 AIRCRAFT SQUADRON TO SIGONELLA, FOLLOWING SEQUENTIAL STEPS REMAIN TO BE TAKEN:

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A. DELIVERY TO GOI OF PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT AND

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT PLAN;

B. ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLAN TO INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS;

C. AUTHORIZATION BY CNO TO CINCUSNAVEUR TO PROCEED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN, AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT PROPOSED FOR USE BY USNAVY PRESS SPOKESMEN IN WASHINGTON AND, AS APPROPRIATE, BY SUBORDINATE US NAVY COMMANDS IN EUROPE:

BEGIN TEXT: IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TRANSFER OF A SQUADRON OF VR-24 AIRCRAFT FROM NAPLES TO SIGONELLA, SICILY, THE

US NAVY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL DISESTABLISH THE NAVAL AIR FACILITY IN NAPLES, ITALY. THE FUNCTIONS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PHYSICAL ASSETS OF THE FACILITY WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE NAVY SUPPORT ACTIVITY, NAPLES. CERTAIN OTHER FUNCTIONS AND RELATED ASBETS ARE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE NAVAL AIR FACILITY AT SIGONELLA. THE ACTION WILL BE EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 1976.

THE DISESTABLISHMENT AND SUBSEQUENT CONSOLIDATION IS DESIGNED TO GAIN GREATER EFFICIENCY AND EFFECT PERSONNEL SAVINGS.

THE NAVAL AIR FACILITY IS LOCATED AT NAPLES' CAPODICHINO AIRPORT. CAPODICHINO ALSO SERVES AS A NATO AND CIVILIAN COMMERCIAL AIRFIELD.

COINCIDENT WITH THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF NAF NAPLES, AN AIR DEPARTMENT OF NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY WILL BE ESTABLI-SHED TO OPERATE THE US TRANSIENT AVIATION FACILITIES AT CAPODICHINO. ADDITIONALLY, SOME TENANT ACTIVITIES WILL BE AFFECTED WITH SOME REMAINING AT CAPODICHINO WHILE OTHER ACTIVITIES WILL RELOCATE. END TEXT.

3. FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WOULD ALSO BE USED AS NECESSARY BY NAVY SPOKESMEN:

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Q: WHAT WILL BE THE PERSONNEL IMPACT?

A: FOUR US CIVILIANS WILL BE REASSIGNED TO NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY NAPLES. THREE OTHER US CIVILIAN POSITIONS WILL BE ELIMINATED. EIGHTY DIRECT HIRE FOREIGN NATIONALS WILL BE REASSIGNED TO THE SAME ACTIVITY. OF THE PRESENT 394 US MILITARY PERSONNEL, 113 WILL BE RELOCATED TO NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY NAPLES, 218 WILL BE RELOCATED TO NAF

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SIGONELLA AND THE REMAINING 63 PERSONNEL WILL BE TRANS-
FERRED TO OTHER NAVY UNITS AROUND THE WORLD.

Q: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO REAL ESTATE NO LONGER REQUIRED?

A: THE NAF NAPLES IS A RENT FREE TENANT OF THE ITALIAN
AIR FORCE. BUILDINGS NOT IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED TO SUPPORT
NSA OPERATIONS WILL BE PLACED IN A CARETAKER STATUS. ANY
REAL PROPERTY NO LONGER REQUIRED BY THIS ACTION WILL
REVERT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY.

Q: WILL ANY ASSISTANCE BE OFFERED TO THE AFFECTED US
CIVILIANS?

Q: YES. UPON DISESTABLISHMENT, THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS ARE

AVAILABLE FOR US CITIZEN EMPLOYEES: (1) DISPLACED CAREER
US EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT MAY
REGISTER IN THE DOD PRIORITY PLACEMENT PROGRAM FOR PLACE-
MENT IN DOD VACANCIES IN THE EUROPEAN AREA FOR WHICH THEY
ARE QUALIFIED AND AVAILABLE. THESE AND OTHER DISPLACED
US CAREER EMPLOYEES WITHOUT REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AT THEIR
OVERSEAS GRADE LEVELS MAY ALSO REGISTER FOR PRIORITY
PLACEMENT CONSIDERATION FOR DOD VACANCIES IN THE US FOR
WHICH THEY ARE QUALIFIED AND AVAILABLE; (2) THOSE CAREER
US RECRUITED EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE STATUTORY OR ADMINISTRA-
TIVE REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS MAY EXERCISE THOSE RIGHTS UPON
RETURN TO THE US; AND (3) DEPENDENTS WOULD FOLLOW SPOUSE
TO NEW ASSIGNMENT (OR RETURN STATESIDE IF NEXT TOUR
UNACCOMPANIED).

Q: IS THIS ACTION BEING INFLUENCED BY THE CURRENT
POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY?
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A: NO. IN FACT, THE MOVE HAS BEEN IN THE PLANNING STAGE
FOR SOME TIME.

Q: WON'T THIS ACTION AFFECT THE SUPPORT OFFERED TO SIXTH
FLEET AND NATO UNITS?

A: NO.

Q: WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL REMAIN AT CAPODICHINO?

A: THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WILL BE RETAINED: AFSOUTH
FLIGHT SECTION, ARMED FORCES COURIER SERVICE DETACHMENT,
DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY, NAVAL AIR MEDITERRANEAN REPAIR
ACTIVITY AND NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION NAPLES DETACH-

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MENT.

Q: WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL BE RELOCATED?

A: THE NAVAL WEATHER SERVICE DETACHMENT AND THE NAVAL AVIATION ENGINEERING SERVICE UNIT WILL RELOCATE, THE FORMER TO SIGONELLA AND THE LATTER TO SIGONELLA OR AS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND/NAVAL AIR FORCES ATLANTIC.

Q: WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT ON THE DIRECT HIRE FOREIGN NATIONALS?

A: ALL 80 WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY NAPLES FOR REDISTRIBUTION AS REQUIRED IN THE NAPLES AREA.

Q: WHY IS THE VR-24 SQUADRON MOVING FROM NAF NAPLES TO

SIGONELLA?

A: THE RELOCATION IS A PLANNED STEP IN THE MOVE TO IMPROVE THE LOGISTIC LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS BY SHIFTING THE AXIS FROM THE ROTA-NAPLES-ATHENS LINE TO THE ROTA-SIGONELLA-SOUDA BAY LINE. THE MOVE IS PART OF A MEDITER-RANEAN FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN WHEREBY FACILITIES HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED AT SIGONELLA WITH NATO FUNDING TO PROVIDE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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VR-24 NEEDS THERE.

Q: HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE VR-24 MOVE?

A: 48 OFFICERS, 165 ENLISTED PERSONNEL AND 96 DEPENDENTS.

Q: WILL THE VR-24 DETACHMENT AT ROTA BE AFFECTED?

A: NO.

Q: WILL THERE BE ANY SAVINGS BECAUSE OF THE MOVE?

A: THE ACTION WILL RESULT IN ANNUAL SAVINGS OF MORE THAN $1.3 MILLION.

4: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER TEXTS OF PROPOSED STATEMENT AND CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO APPRO-PRIATE LEVEL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. AFTER EMBASSY REPORTS TO DEPARTMENT THAT THIS ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN, THE REMAINING STEPS IN PARAS 1B AND 1C WILL BE CARRIED OUT. INGERSOLL

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